

Glenda Wiles

From: edjoycedoyle@wildblue.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2007 12:19 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Florence branch library proposal

Dear Commissioners,

As County Commissioners, you know better than anyone how quickly our area population is growing. With that growth, we will need to introduce and increase local services. I realize county and state funds are stretched thin, and the competition for funds is great. However, I would like to propose an additional funding goal that I believe will not only strengthen our community but will become necessary as more and more families move to the area - a branch public library for Florence.

Florence is among the most quickly growing towns in Ravalli County. Despite national trends, house values and household incomes are both on the rise, along with population totals. Students researching an assignment, businessmen in need of market information, seniors looking for audio books, residents interested in county news, professionals accessing the internet - new and old residents alike will be interested in a local library dedicated to their needs.

The Hamilton Public Library is charged with serving the Florence community. However, most families have two working parents making it too difficult for parents to drive their children the nearly 30 miles to Hamilton to access the public library there. And as the population grows, so will patron needs, stretching the current services in Hamilton beyond their original intentions. Florence residents can additionally access the North Valley Public Library in Stevensville, but again the building is further off for Florence residents and services will become limited.

As a former public library employee and a current employee of the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana, I have seen first-hand what a library can mean to a community. I would like to see Florence and the Bitterroot Valley maintain a sense of community even as it grows and changes. Libraries serve as community centers where residents can gather to learn and share with one another. Therefore, I propose your Commission investigate the possibility of obtaining funding to create a Florence Public Library. There are several spaces in the downtown area that would be conducive to this purpose, and an ideal building located on Route 93 near Ace Hardware is currently available.

While I have worked in libraries, I have no experience in fundraising or grant writing and am unsure of what steps are necessary to make a Florence Public Library become a reality. I would be willing to volunteer to stuff envelopes, etc. as needed, although I am not qualified to spearhead such a project. Thus I leave this proposal in your capable hands.

An investment in a library is an investment in the future.

Thank you,

Joyce Doyle
333 Martin Lane
Florence, MT 59833
406-396-8233
edjoycedoyle@wildblue.net

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

--	--	--	--	--